

# Dreyfus Institutional Money Market Fund

Seeking a high level of current income  
and a stable \$1.00 share price

**PROSPECTUS** May 1, 2004



YOU, YOUR ADVISOR AND

**Dreyfus**

A MELLON FINANCIAL COMPANY™

As with all mutual funds, the Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved or disapproved these securities or passed upon the adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

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*See back cover.*

# Dreyfus Institutional Money Market Fund

Ticker Symbols:

**Money Market Series: DMSXX**

**Government Securities Series: DINXX**



## GOAL/APPROACH

The fund seeks as high a level of current income as is consistent with the preservation of capital and the maintenance of liquidity. As a money market fund, the fund is subject to maturity, quality and diversification requirements designed to help it maintain a stable share price of \$1.00.

The fund permits an investor to invest in two separate portfolios, the Money Market Series and the Government Securities Series.

The **Money Market Series** invests in a diversified portfolio of high-quality, short-term debt securities, including:

- securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or its agencies or instrumentalities
- certificates of deposit, time deposits, bankers' acceptances and other short-term securities issued by domestic banks or foreign branches of domestic banks
- repurchase agreements
- asset-backed securities
- commercial paper and other short-term corporate obligations of domestic issuers, including those with floating or variable rates of interest
- dollar-denominated obligations issued or guaranteed by one or more foreign governments or any of their political subdivisions or agencies

Normally, the Money Market Series invests at least 25% of its total assets in bank obligations.

The **Government Securities Series** invests only in short-term securities issued or guaranteed as to principal and interest by the U.S. government and repurchase agreements collateralized to buy these securities.

## Concepts to understand

**Money market fund:** a specific type of fund that seeks to maintain a \$1.00 price per share. Money market funds are subject to strict federal requirements and must:

- maintain an average dollar-weighted portfolio maturity of 90 days or less
- buy individual securities that have remaining maturities of 13 months or less
- invest only in high-quality, dollar-denominated obligations

**Repurchase agreement:** a U.S. commercial bank or securities dealer sells securities, typically U.S. government securities, to the fund and agrees to repurchase them at an agreed-upon date (usually the next day) and price. These agreements offer the fund a means of investing money for a short period of time.

**U.S. government securities:** these securities are generally considered to be among the highest-quality investments available. By investing in these securities, the fund seeks greater credit safety for investors. In exchange for the higher level of credit safety that U.S. government securities offer, the fund's yields may be lower than those of money market funds that do not limit their investments to U.S. government securities.



## MAIN RISKS

An investment in the Money Market Series or Government Securities Series is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency. Although each series seeks to preserve the value of a shareholder's investment at \$1.00 per share, it is possible to lose money by investing in either series. Additionally, each series' yield will vary as the short-term securities in its portfolio mature and the proceeds are reinvested in securities with different interest rates.

While each series has maintained a constant share price since inception, and will continue to try to do so, the following factors could reduce the series' income level and/or share price:

- interest rates could rise sharply, causing the value of the series' investments, and its share price, to drop
- interest rates could drop, thereby reducing the series' yield
- as to the Money Market Series, any of the series' holdings could have its credit rating downgraded or could default
- as to the Money Market Series, the risks generally associated with concentrating investments in the banking industry, such as interest rate risk, credit risk and regulatory developments relating to the banking industry
- as to the Money Market Series, the risks generally associated with dollar-denominated securities issued by foreign branches of domestic banks, or foreign governments, such as economic and political developments, seizure or nationalization of deposits, imposition of taxes or other restrictions on the payment of principal and interest
- the risk that a counterparty in a repurchase agreement could fail to honor the terms of its agreement

## Concepts to understand

**Credit rating:** a measure of the issuer's expected ability to make all required interest and principal payments in a timely manner.

An issuer with the highest credit rating has a very strong degree of certainty (or safety) with respect to making all payments. An issuer with the second-highest credit rating has a strong capacity to make all payments, but the degree of safety is somewhat less.

Generally, each series is required to invest at least 95% of its assets in the securities of issuers with the highest credit rating or the unrated equivalent as determined by Dreyfus, with the remainder invested in securities with the second-highest credit rating.

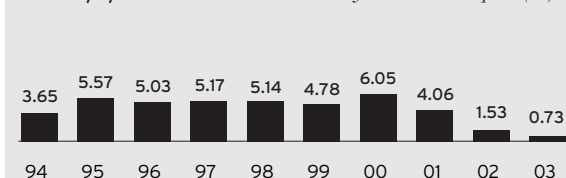
## Money Market Series



### PAST PERFORMANCE

The bar chart and table shown illustrate the risks of investing in the Money Market Series. The bar chart shows the changes in the series' performance from year to year. The table shows the series' average annual total returns over time. All returns assume reinvestment of dividends and distributions. Of course, past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Year-by-year total returns *as of 12/31 each year (%)*



**Best Quarter:** Q3 '00 +1.57%

**Worst Quarter:** Q4 '03 +0.15%

Average annual total returns *as of 12/31/03*

1 Year	5 Years	10 Years
0.73%	3.41%	4.16%

For the series' current 7-day yield, call toll-free:

**1-800-645-6561.**

### What this series is – and isn't

This series is a mutual fund: a pooled investment that is professionally managed and gives an investor the opportunity to participate in financial markets. It strives to reach its stated goal, although as with all mutual funds, it cannot offer guaranteed results.

An investment in this fund is not a bank deposit. It is not insured or guaranteed by the FDIC or any other government agency. It is not a complete investment program. An investor could lose money in this fund, but also has the potential to make money.



## EXPENSES

Investors pay certain fees and expenses in connection with the fund, which are described for the Money Market Series in the table below. Annual series operating expenses are paid out of the series' assets, so their effect is included in the share price. The fund has no sales charge (load) or Rule 12b-1 distribution fees.

Fee table	
<b>Annual series operating expenses</b>	
<i>% of average daily net assets</i>	
Management fees	0.50%
Shareholder services fee	0.00%
Other expenses	0.04%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.54%</b>

Expense example			
1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
<b>\$55</b>	<b>\$173</b>	<b>\$302</b>	<b>\$677</b>
This example shows what an investor could pay in expenses over time. It uses the same hypothetical conditions other funds use in their prospectuses: \$10,000 initial investment, 5% total return each year and no changes in expenses. The figures shown would be the same whether the investor sold their shares at the end of a period or kept them. Because actual returns and expenses will be different, the example is for comparison only.			

From time to time, Dreyfus may limit expenses to the extent it deems appropriate to enhance the yield of a series during periods when fixed expenses have a significant impact on the series' yield because of low interest rates. This expense limitation policy is voluntary and temporary and may be revised or terminated by Dreyfus at any time without notice.

## Concepts to understand

- Management fee:** the fee paid to Dreyfus for managing the series' portfolio and assisting in all aspects of the fund's operations.
- Shareholder services fee:** a fee of up to 0.25% used to reimburse the fund's distributor for shareholder account service and maintenance.
- Other expenses:** fees paid by the fund for miscellaneous items such as transfer agency, custody, professional and registration fees.

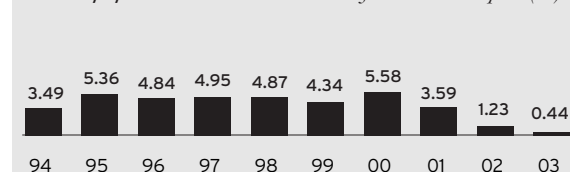
## Government Securities Series



### PAST PERFORMANCE

The bar chart and table shown illustrate the risks of investing in the Government Securities Series. The bar chart shows the changes in the series' performance from year to year. The table shows the series' average annual total returns over time. All returns assume reinvestment of dividends and distributions. Of course, past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Year-by-year total returns as of 12/31 each year (%)



**Best Quarter:** Q3 '00 +1.47%

**Worst Quarter:** Q4 '03 +0.06%

Average annual total returns as of 12/31/03

1 Year	5 Years	10 Years
0.44%	3.02%	3.85%

For the series' current 7-day yield, call toll-free:  
**1-800-645-6561.**

### What this series is – and isn't

This series is a mutual fund: a pooled investment that is professionally managed and gives an investor the opportunity to participate in financial markets. It strives to reach its stated goal, although as with all mutual funds, it cannot offer guaranteed results.

An investment in this fund is not a bank deposit. It is not insured or guaranteed by the FDIC or any other government agency. It is not a complete investment program. An investor could lose money in this fund, but also has the potential to make money.



## EXPENSES

Investors pay certain fees and expenses in connection with the fund, which are described for the Government Securities Series in the table below. Annual series operating expenses are paid out of the series' assets, so their effect is included in the share price. The fund has no sales charge (load) or Rule 12b-1 distribution fees.

### Fee table

#### Annual series operating expenses

*% of average daily net assets*

Management fees	0.50%
Shareholder services fee	0.03%
Other expenses	0.16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.69%</b>

### Expense example

1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
<b>\$70</b>	<b>\$221</b>	<b>\$384</b>	<b>\$859</b>

This example shows what an investor could pay in expenses over time. It uses the same hypothetical conditions other funds use in their prospectuses: \$10,000 initial investment, 5% total return each year and no changes in expenses. The figures shown would be the same whether the investor sold their shares at the end of a period or kept them. Because actual returns and expenses will be different, the example is for comparison only.

From time to time, Dreyfus may limit expenses to the extent it deems appropriate to enhance the yield of a series during periods when fixed expenses have a significant impact on the series' yield because of low interest rates. This expense limitation policy is voluntary and temporary and may be revised or terminated by Dreyfus at any time without notice.

## Concepts to understand

**Management fee:** the fee paid to Dreyfus for managing the series' portfolio and assisting in all aspects of the fund's operations.

**Shareholder services fee:** a fee of up to 0.25% used to reimburse the fund's distributor for shareholder account service and maintenance.

**Other expenses:** fees paid by the fund for miscellaneous items such as transfer agency, custody, professional and registration fees.



## MANAGEMENT

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The investment adviser for the fund is The Dreyfus Corporation (Dreyfus), 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166. Founded in 1947, Dreyfus manages approximately \$165 billion in approximately 200 mutual fund portfolios. For the past fiscal year, the fund paid Dreyfus a management fee at the annual rate of 0.50% of each series' average daily net assets. Dreyfus is the primary mutual fund business of Mellon Financial Corporation (Mellon Financial), a global financial services company with approximately \$3.6 trillion of assets under management, administration or custody, including approximately \$679 billion under management. Mellon Financial provides financial services for institutions, corporations and individuals, offering institutional asset management, mutual funds, private wealth management, asset servicing, human resources services and treasury services. Mellon Financial is headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

On March 30, 2004, Mellon Bank, N.A., a wholly owned subsidiary of Mellon Financial and the then-current parent company of Dreyfus, transferred its entire interest in Dreyfus, including Dreyfus Service Corporation (the fund's distributor) and all of Dreyfus' other direct and indirect subsidiaries, to Mellon Financial. The reorganization did not result in a change in the control or management of Dreyfus under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended, or the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act); Dreyfus merely became a direct, rather than indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Mellon Financial. The reorganization was part of a larger reorganization of Mellon Financial that is expected to increase organizational synergies and create a more efficient capital structure throughout the organization.

The Dreyfus asset management philosophy is based on the belief that discipline and consistency are important to investment success. For each fund, Dreyfus seeks to establish clear guidelines for portfolio management and to be systematic in making decisions. This approach is designed to provide each fund with a distinct, stable identity.

The fund, Dreyfus and Dreyfus Service Corporation have each adopted a code of ethics that permits its personnel, subject to such code, to invest in securities, including securities that may be purchased or held by the fund. The Dreyfus code of ethics restricts the personal securities transactions of its employees, and requires portfolio managers and other investment personnel to comply with the code's preclearance and disclosure procedures. Its primary purpose is to ensure that personal trading by Dreyfus employees does not disadvantage any Dreyfus-managed fund.

Two class actions have been filed against Mellon Financial and Mellon Bank, N.A., and Dreyfus and Founders Asset Management LLC (the Investment Advisers), and the directors of all or substantially all of the Dreyfus funds, alleging that the Investment Advisers improperly used assets of the Dreyfus funds, in the form of directed brokerage commissions and 12b-1 fees, to pay brokers to promote sales of Dreyfus funds, and that the use of fund assets to make these payments was not properly disclosed to investors. The complaints further allege that the directors breached their fiduciary duties to fund shareholders under the 1940 Act and at common law. The complaints seek unspecified compensatory and punitive damages, rescission of the funds' contracts with the Investment Advisers, an accounting of all fees paid, and an award of attorneys' fees and litigation expenses. Dreyfus and the Dreyfus funds believe the allegations to be totally without merit and will defend the actions vigorously.

Additional lawsuits arising out of these circumstances and presenting similar allegations and requests for relief may be filed against the defendants in the future. Neither Dreyfus nor the Dreyfus funds believe that any of the pending actions will have a material adverse effect on the Dreyfus funds or Dreyfus' ability to perform its contract with the Dreyfus funds.



## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The following tables describe each series' performance for the fiscal periods indicated. "Total return" shows how much an investment in a series would have increased (or decreased) during each period, assuming reinvestment of all dividends and

distributions. These figures have been independently audited by Ernst & Young LLP, whose report, along with each series' financial statements, is included in the fund's annual report, which is available upon request.

Money Market Series		Year Ended December 31,				
		2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Per-Share Data (\$):						
Net asset value, beginning of period		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Investment operations:	Investment income – net	.007	.015	.040	.059	.047
Distributions:	Dividends from investment income – net	(.007)	(.015)	(.040)	(.059)	(.047)
Net asset value, end of period		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Total Return (%)		.73	1.53	4.06	6.05	4.78
Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):						
Ratio of expenses to average net assets		.54	.54	.53	.56	.56
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets		.74	1.52	3.94	5.89	4.67
Net assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)		526,043	703,007	858,014	676,949	592,446

		Year Ended December 31,			
Government Securities Series	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Per-Share Data (\$):					
Net asset value, beginning of period	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Investment operations: Investment income – net	.004	.012	.035	.054	.043
Distributions: Dividends from investment income – net	(.004)	(.012)	(.035)	(.054)	(.043)
Net asset value, end of period	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Total Return (%)	.44	1.23	3.59	5.58	4.34
Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):					
Ratio of expenses to average net assets	.69	.69	.66	.66	.68
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets	.47	1.24	3.56	5.41	4.26
Decrease reflected in above expense ratios due to undertakings by Dreyfus	.00 <sup>1</sup>	–	–	–	–
Net assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)	35,720	87,703	92,607	93,255	82,894

<sup>1</sup> Amount represents less than .01%.

# Account Information



## ACCOUNT POLICIES

### Buying shares

You pay **no sales charges** to invest in this fund. The price for fund shares is the relevant series' net asset value per share (NAV), which generally is calculated twice a day: at 12:00 noon Eastern time and as of the close of trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (usually 4:00 p.m. Eastern time) on days the exchange, or the fund's transfer agent as to the Money Market Series only, is open for regular business. Orders will be priced at the next NAV calculated after they are accepted by the fund's transfer agent or other authorized entity. The fund's investments are valued based on amortized cost.

#### Minimum investments

	Initial	Additional
<b>Regular accounts</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>Dreyfus automatic investment plans</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$100</b>

All investments must be in U.S. dollars. Third-party checks cannot be accepted. Investors may be charged a fee for any check that does not clear. Maximum Dreyfus TeleTransfer purchase is \$150,000 per day.

### Concepts to understand

**Net asset value (NAV):** a mutual fund's share price on a given day. A fund's NAV is calculated by dividing the value of its net assets by the number of existing shares.

**Amortized cost:** a method of valuing a money market fund's portfolio securities, which does not take into account unrealized gains and losses. As a result, portfolio securities are valued at their acquisition cost, adjusted over time based on the discounts or premiums reflected in their purchase price. This method of valuation is designed for a fund to be able to price its shares at \$1.00 per share.

Selling shares

You may sell (redeem) shares at any time. Shares will be sold at the next NAV calculated after your order is accepted by the fund’s transfer agent or other authorized entity. Any certificates representing fund shares being sold must be returned with the redemption request. Orders will be processed promptly and investors will generally receive the proceeds within a week.

Before selling or writing a check against shares recently purchased by check, Dreyfus TeleTransfer or Automatic Asset Builder, please note that:

- if you send a written request to sell such shares, the fund may delay selling the shares for up to eight business days following the purchase of those shares
- the fund will not honor redemption checks, or process wire, telephone or Dreyfus TeleTransfer redemption requests, for up to eight business days following the purchase of those shares

Limitations on selling shares by phone

Proceeds sent by	Minimum phone	Maximum phone
Check	no minimum	\$250,000 per day
Wire	\$1,000	\$500,000 for joint accounts every 30 days/ \$20,000 per day
Dreyfus TeleTransfer	\$500	\$500,000 for joint accounts every 30 days/ \$20,000 per day

Written sell orders

Some circumstances require written sell orders along with signature guarantees. These include:

- amounts of \$10,000 or more on accounts whose address has been changed within the last 30 days
- requests to send the proceeds to a different payee or address

Written sell orders of \$100,000 or more must also be signature guaranteed.

A signature guarantee helps protect against fraud. An investor can obtain one from most banks or securities dealers, but not from a notary public. For joint accounts, each signature must be guaranteed. Please call us to ensure that your signature guarantee will be processed correctly.

## General policies

Unless you decline teleservice privileges on the application, you may be responsible for any fraudulent telephone order as long as the fund's transfer agent takes reasonable measures to confirm that instructions are genuine.

### The fund reserves the right to:

- refuse any purchase or exchange request
- change or discontinue its exchange privilege, or temporarily suspend this privilege during unusual market conditions
- change its minimum investment amounts
- delay sending out redemption proceeds for up to seven days (generally applies only in cases of very large redemptions, excessive trading or during unusual market conditions)

The fund also reserves the right to make a "redemption in kind" — payment in portfolio securities rather than cash — if the amount the investor is redeeming is large enough to affect fund operations (for example, if it represents more than 1% of the fund's assets).

The fund may also process purchase and sale orders and calculate its net asset value on days that the fund's primary trading markets are open and the fund's management determines to do so.

## Small account policies

To offset the relatively higher costs of servicing smaller accounts, the fund charges regular accounts with balances below \$2,000 an annual fee of \$12. The fee will be imposed during the fourth quarter of each calendar year.

The fee will be waived for: any investor whose aggregate Dreyfus mutual fund investments total at least \$25,000; IRA accounts; accounts participating in automatic investment programs; accounts opened through a financial institution.

If your account falls below \$500, the fund may ask you to increase your balance. If it is still below \$500 after 30 days, the fund may close your account and send you the proceeds.



## DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAXES

The fund earns dividends, interest and other income from its investments, and distributes this income (less expenses) to shareholders as dividends. The fund also realizes capital gains from its investments, and distributes these gains (less any losses) to shareholders as capital gain distributions. The fund normally pays dividends once a month and capital gain distributions annually. Fund dividends and capital gain distributions will be reinvested in the fund unless you instruct the fund otherwise. There are no fees or sales charges on reinvestments.

**Distributions paid by the fund** are subject to federal income tax, and may also be subject to state or local taxes (unless you are investing through a tax-advantaged retirement account). For federal tax purposes, in general, certain fund distributions, including distributions of short-term capital gains, are taxable to you as ordinary income. Other fund distributions, including dividends from U.S. companies and certain foreign companies and distributions of long-term capital gains, are taxable to you as qualified dividends and capital gains.

**The tax status of any distribution** generally is the same regardless of how long you have been in the fund and whether you reinvest your distributions or take them in cash.

**If you buy shares of a fund** when the fund has realized but not yet distributed income or capital gains, you will be “buying a dividend” by paying the full price for the shares and then receiving a portion back in the form of a taxable distribution.

Your sale of shares, including exchanges into other funds, may result in a capital gain or loss for tax purposes. A capital gain or loss on your investment in the fund generally is the difference between the cost of your shares and the amount you receive when you sell them.

The tax status of your distributions will be detailed in your annual tax statement from the fund. Because everyone’s tax situation is unique, please consult your tax advisor before investing.

### Third-party investments

Investments made through a third party (rather than directly with Dreyfus) may be subject to policies and fees different than those described herein. Banks, brokers, 401(k) plans, financial advisers and financial supermarkets may charge transaction fees and may set different minimum investments or limitations on buying or selling shares. In addition, such third parties may receive payments from Dreyfus in connection with their offering of fund shares to their customers, or for marketing, distribution or other services. The receipt of such payments could create an incentive for the third party to offer the fund instead of other mutual funds where such payments are not received. Investors should consult a representative of their plan or financial institution for further information.



## SERVICES FOR FUND INVESTORS

The third party through whom investors purchased fund shares may impose different restrictions on these services and privileges offered by the fund, or may not make them available at all. Consult a financial representative for more information on the availability of these services and privileges.

### Automatic services

Buying or selling shares automatically is easy with the services described below. With each service, the investor selects a schedule and amount, subject to certain restrictions. Investors can set up most of these services with their application, or by calling their financial representative or 1-800-554-4611.

#### For investing

<b>Dreyfus Automatic Asset Builder®</b>	For making automatic investments from a designated bank account.
<b>Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan</b>	For making automatic investments through a payroll deduction.
<b>Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege</b>	For making automatic investments from your federal employment, Social Security or other regular federal government check.
<b>Dreyfus Dividend Sweep</b>	For automatically reinvesting the dividends and distributions from one Dreyfus fund into another (not available for IRAs).

#### For exchanging shares

<b>Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege</b>	For making regular exchanges from one Dreyfus fund into another.
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#### For selling shares

<b>Dreyfus Automatic Withdrawal Plan</b>	For making regular withdrawals from most Dreyfus funds.
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### Checkwriting privilege

Investors may write redemption checks against their account in amounts of \$500 or more. These checks are free; however, a fee will be charged if an investor requests a stop payment or if the transfer agent cannot honor a redemption check due to insufficient funds or another valid reason. Please do not postdate checks or use them to close the account.

### Exchange privilege

Investors can exchange shares worth \$500 or more (no minimum for retirement accounts) from one Dreyfus fund into certain others. Investors can request an exchange in writing or by phone. Be sure to read the current prospectus for any fund into which you are exchanging before investing. Any new account established through an exchange will have the same privileges as an original account (as long as they are available). There is currently no fee for exchanges, although an investor may be charged a sales load when exchanging into any fund that has one.

### Dreyfus TeleTransfer privilege

To move money between your bank account and your Dreyfus fund account with a phone call, use the Dreyfus TeleTransfer privilege. You can set up Dreyfus TeleTransfer on your account by providing bank account information and following the instructions on your application.

### Dreyfus Auto-Exchange privilege

Dreyfus Auto-Exchange privilege enables an investor to invest regularly (on a semi-monthly, quarterly or annual basis), in exchange for shares of a fund, in shares of certain other Dreyfus funds. There is currently no fee for this privilege.

### Other automatic services

Certain other services for buying and selling shares automatically are offered by the fund. See the Statement of Additional Information (SAI) for further information.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCOUNTS

### TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT



#### In Writing

Complete the application.  
Mail your application and a check to:  
The Dreyfus Family of Funds  
P.O. Box 55299, Boston, MA 02205-8553



#### By Telephone

**Wire** Call us to request an account application and an account number. Have your bank send your investment to The Bank of New York, with these instructions:

- ABA# 021000018
- Money Market Series DDA# 8900051922
- Government Securities Series DDA# 8900051949
- your account number
- name(s) of investor(s)

Return your application with the account number on the application.



#### Automatically

**With an initial investment** Indicate on your application which automatic service(s) you want. Return your application with your investment.

### TO ADD TO AN ACCOUNT

Fill out an investment slip, and write your account number on your check.

Mail the slip and the check to:  
The Dreyfus Family of Funds  
P.O. Box 105, Newark, NJ 07101-0105

**Wire** Have your bank send your investment to The Bank of New York, with these instructions:

- ABA# 021000018
- Money Market Series DDA# 8900051922
- Government Securities Series DDA# 8900051949
- your account number
- name(s) of investor(s)

**Electronic check** Same as wire, but insert "111" before your 14-digit account number.

**Dreyfus TeleTransfer** Request Dreyfus TeleTransfer on your application. Call us to request your transaction.

**All services** Call us to request a form to add any automatic investing service (see "Services for Fund Investors"). Complete and return the form along with any other required materials.

### TO SELL SHARES

Write a redemption check **or** write a letter of instruction that includes:

- your name(s) and signature(s)
- your account number
- the fund name
- the dollar amount you want to sell
- how and where to send the proceeds

Obtain a signature guarantee or other documentation, if required (see "Account Policies – Selling Shares").

Mail your request to:  
The Dreyfus Family of Funds  
P.O. Box 55263, Boston, MA 02205-8501

**Wire** Be sure the fund has your bank account information on file. Call us to request your transaction. Proceeds will be wired to your bank.

**Dreyfus TeleTransfer** Be sure the fund has your bank account information on file. Call us to request your transaction. Proceeds will be sent to your bank by electronic check.

**Check** Call us to request your transaction. A check will be sent to the address of record.

**Dreyfus Automatic Withdrawal Plan** Call us to request a form to add the plan. Complete the form, specifying the amount and frequency of withdrawals you would like.

Be sure to maintain an account balance of \$10,000 or more.

To open an account, make subsequent investments or to sell shares, please contact your financial representative or call toll free in the U.S. **1-800-554-4611**.  
Make checks payable to: **The Dreyfus Family of Funds**.

### Concepts to understand

**Wire transfer:** for transferring money from one financial institution to another. Wiring is the fastest way to move money, although your bank may charge a fee to send or receive wire transfers. Wire redemptions from the fund are subject to a \$1,000 minimum.

**Electronic check:** for transferring money out of a bank account. Your transaction is entered electronically, but may take up to eight business days to clear. Electronic checks usually are available without a fee at all Automated Clearing House (ACH) banks.







# For More Information

## **Dreyfus Institutional Money Market Fund**

SEC file number: 811-3025

More information on this fund is available free upon request, including the following:

### **Annual/Semiannual Report**

Describes the fund's performance and lists its portfolio holdings.

### **Statement of Additional Information (SAI)**

Provides more details about the fund and its policies. A current SAI is on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and is incorporated by reference (is legally considered part of this prospectus).

To obtain information:

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**By telephone**

Call 1-800-242-8671

**By mail** Write to:

The Dreyfus Family of Funds  
144 Glenn Curtiss Boulevard  
Uniondale, NY 11556-0144

**On the Internet** Text-only versions of certain fund documents can be viewed online or downloaded from:  
<http://www.sec.gov>

You can also obtain copies, after paying a duplicating fee, by visiting the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC (for information, call 1-202-942-8090) or by E-mail request to [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov), or by writing to the SEC's Public Reference Section, Washington, DC 20549-0102.

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DREYFUS INSTITUTIONAL MONEY MARKET FUND

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES SERIES  
MONEY MARKET SERIES

STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
MAY 1, 2004

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This Statement of Additional Information, which is not a prospectus, supplements and should be read in conjunction with the current Prospectus of the Government Securities Series and Money Market Series (each, a “series”) of Dreyfus Institutional Money Market Fund (the “Fund”), dated May 1, 2004, as it may be revised from time to time. To obtain a copy of the Fund’s Prospectus, please write to the Fund at 144 Glenn Curtiss Boulevard, Uniondale, New York 11556-0144, or call one of the following numbers:

Call Toll Free -- 1-800-645-6561  
In New York City -- Call 1-718-895-1396  
Outside the U.S. -- Call 516-794-5452

The Fund’s most recent Annual Report and Semi-Annual Report to Shareholders are separate documents supplied with this Statement of Additional Information, and the financial statements, accompanying notes and report of independent auditors appearing in the Annual Report are incorporated by reference into this Statement of Additional Information.

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## DESCRIPTION OF THE FUND AND SERIES

The Fund was incorporated under Maryland law on March 19, 1980. The Fund began offering shares of the Government Securities Series on April 1, 1982, and shares of the Money Market Series on May 4, 1982. On April 27, 1987, the Fund was reorganized as a Massachusetts business trust. The Fund is an open-end management investment company, known as a money market mutual fund. Each series is a diversified fund, which means that, with respect to 75% of its total assets, the series will not invest more than 5% of its assets in the securities of any single issuer, nor hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any single issuer (other than securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities).

The Dreyfus Corporation (the “Manager”) serves as the Fund’s investment adviser.

Dreyfus Service Corporation (the “Distributor”) is the distributor of the Fund’s shares.

### Certain Portfolio Securities

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the Fund’s Prospectus.

U.S. Government Securities. Each series may invest in securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, which include U.S. Treasury securities that differ in their interest rates, maturities and times of issuance such as Treasury Bills, Treasury Notes and Treasury Bonds. In addition, the Money Market Series may invest in obligations issued or guaranteed by U.S. Government agencies and instrumentalities. Some obligations issued or guaranteed by U.S. Government agencies and instrumentalities are supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury; others by the right of the issuer to borrow from the Treasury; others by discretionary authority of the U.S. Government to purchase certain obligations of the agency or instrumentality; and others only by the credit of the agency or instrumentality. These securities bear fixed, floating or variable rates of interest. While the U.S. Government currently provides financial support to such U.S. Government-sponsored agencies or instrumentalities, no assurance can be given that it will always do so, since it is not so obligated by law.

Bank Obligations. (Money Market Series only) The Money Market Series may purchase certificates of deposit, time deposits, bankers’ acceptances and other short-term obligations issued by domestic banks, foreign branches of domestic banks, and loan associations and other banking institutions.

Certificates of deposit (“CDs”) are negotiable certificates evidencing the obligation of a bank to repay funds deposited with it for a specified period of time.

Time deposits (“TDs”) are non-negotiable deposits maintained in a banking institution for a specified period of time (in no event longer than seven days) at a stated interest rate.

Bankers’ acceptances are credit instruments evidencing the obligation of a bank to pay a draft drawn on it by a customer. These instruments reflect the obligation both of the bank and the drawer to pay the face amount of the instrument upon maturity. The other short-term obligations may include uninsured, direct obligations bearing fixed, floating or variable interest rates.

Domestic commercial banks organized under Federal law are supervised and examined by the Comptroller of the Currency and are required to be members of the Federal Reserve System and to have their deposits insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the "FDIC"). Domestic banks organized under state law are supervised and examined by state banking authorities but are members of the Federal Reserve System only if they elect to join. In addition, state banks whose CDs may be purchased by the Money Market Series are insured by the FDIC (although such insurance may not be of material benefit to the Money Market Series, depending upon the principal amount of the CDs of each bank held by the Money Market Series) and are subject to Federal examination and to a substantial body of Federal law and regulation. As a result of Federal and state laws and regulations, domestic banks are, among other things, generally required to maintain specified levels of reserves and are subject to other regulations designed to promote financial soundness. However, not all of such laws and regulations apply to the foreign branches of domestic banks.

Obligations of foreign branches of domestic banks, such as CDs and TDs, may be general obligations of the parent banks in addition to the issuing branches or may be limited by the terms of a specific obligation and governmental regulation. Such obligations are subject to different risks than are those of domestic banks. These risks include foreign economic and political developments, foreign governmental restrictions that may adversely affect payment of principal and interest on the obligations, foreign exchange controls and foreign withholding and other taxes on interest income. Foreign branches are not necessarily subject to the same or similar regulatory requirements that apply to domestic banks, such as mandatory reserve requirements, loan limitations, and accounting, auditing and financial recordkeeping requirements. In addition, less information may be publicly available about a foreign branch of a domestic bank than about a domestic bank.

In view of the foregoing factors associated with the purchase of CDs and TDs issued by foreign branches of domestic banks, the Manager carefully evaluates such investments on a case-by-case basis.

Foreign Government Obligations; Securities of Supranational Entities. (Money Market Series only) The Money Market Series may invest in obligations issued or guaranteed by one or more foreign governments or any of their political subdivisions, agencies or instrumentalities that are determined by the Manager to be of comparable quality to the other obligations in which the Money Market Series may invest. Such securities also include debt obligations of supranational entities. Supranational entities include international organizations designated or supported by governmental entities to promote economic reconstruction or development and international banking institutions and related government agencies. Examples include the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the World Bank), the European Coal and Steel Community, the Asian Development Bank and the InterAmerican Development Bank.

Repurchase Agreements. Each series may enter into repurchase agreements with certain banks or non-bank dealers. In a repurchase agreement, the series buys, and the seller agrees to repurchase, a security at a mutually agreed upon time and price (usually within seven days). The repurchase agreement thereby determines the yield during the purchaser's holding period, while the seller's obligation to repurchase is secured by the value of the underlying security. The Fund's custodian or sub-custodian will have custody of, and will hold in a segregated account, securities acquired by the series under a repurchase agreement. Repurchase agreements are

considered by the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission to be loans by the series which enters into them. Repurchase agreements could involve risks in the event of a default or insolvency of the other party to the agreement, including possible delays or restrictions upon the series' ability to dispose of the underlying securities. In an attempt to reduce the risk of incurring a loss on a repurchase agreement, the series will enter into repurchase agreements only with domestic banks with total assets in excess of \$1 billion, or primary government securities dealers reporting to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, with respect to securities of the type in which the series may invest or government securities regardless of their remaining maturities, and will require that additional securities be deposited with it if the value of the securities purchased should decrease below resale price.

Commercial Paper. (Money Market Series only) The Money Market Series may purchase commercial paper consisting of short-term, unsecured promissory notes issued to finance short-term credit needs. The commercial paper purchased by the Money Market Series will consist only of direct obligations issued by domestic entities. The other corporate obligations in which the Money Market Series may invest consist of high quality, U.S. dollar denominated short-term bonds and notes (including variable amount master demand notes) issued by domestic corporations, including banks.

Floating and Variable Rate Obligations. (Money Market Series only) The Money Market Series may purchase floating and variable rate demand notes and bonds, which are obligations ordinarily having stated maturities in excess of 13 months, but which permit the holder to demand payment of principal at any time, or at specified intervals not exceeding 13 months, in each case upon not more than 30 days' notice. Variable rate demand notes include master demand notes which are obligations that permit the Money Market Series to invest fluctuating amounts, at varying rates of interest, pursuant to direct arrangements between the Money Market Series, as lender, and the borrower. These obligations permit daily changes in the amounts borrowed. Because these obligations are direct lending arrangements between the lender and borrower, it is not contemplated that such instruments generally will be traded, and there generally is no established secondary market for these obligations, although they are redeemable at face value, plus accrued interest. Accordingly, where these obligations are not secured by letters of credit or other credit support arrangements, the Money Market Series' right to redeem is dependent on the ability of the borrower to pay principal and interest on demand.

Asset-Backed Securities. (Money Market Series only) The Money Market Series may purchase asset-backed securities, which are securities issued by special purpose entities whose primary assets consist of a pool of mortgages, loans, receivables or other assets. Payment of principal and interest may depend largely on the cash flows generated by the assets backing the securities and, in certain cases, supported by letters of credit, surety bonds or other forms of credit or liquidity enhancements. The value of these asset-backed securities also may be affected by the creditworthiness of the servicing agent for the pool of assets, the originator of the loans or receivables or the financial institution providing the credit support.

Illiquid Securities. Each series may invest up to 10% of the value of its net assets in securities as to which a liquid trading market does not exist, provided such investments are consistent with the series' investment objective. Such securities may include securities that are not readily marketable, such as securities that are subject to legal or contractual restrictions on resale, and repurchase agreements providing for settlement in more than seven days after notice. As to these securities, the series is subject to a risk that should the series desire to sell them when

a ready buyer is not available at a price the series deems representative of their value, the value of the series' net assets could be adversely affected.

### Investment Techniques

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the Fund's Prospectus.

Borrowing Money. Each series may borrow money from banks for temporary or emergency (not leveraging) purposes, in an amount up to 15% of the value of its total assets (including the amount borrowed) valued at the lesser of cost or market, less liabilities (not including the amount borrowed) at the time the borrowing is made. While borrowings exceed 5% of the series' total assets, the series will not make any additional investments.

Lending Portfolio Securities. (Government Securities Series only) The Government Securities Series may lend securities from its portfolio to brokers, dealers and other financial institutions needing to borrow securities to complete certain transactions. In connection with such loans, the series remains the owner of the loaned securities and continues to be entitled to payments in amounts equal to the interest, dividends or other distributions payable on the loaned securities. The series also has the right to terminate a loan at any time. The series may call the loan to vote proxies if a material issue affecting the series' investment is to be voted upon. Loans of portfolio securities may not exceed 20% of the value of the Government Securities Series' total assets (including the value of all assets received as collateral for the loan). The series will receive collateral consisting of cash or U.S. Treasury securities which will be maintained at all times in an amount equal to at least 100% of the current market value of the loaned securities. If the collateral consists of cash, the series will reinvest the cash and pay the borrower a pre-negotiated fee or "rebate" from any return earned on the investment. The Government Securities Series may participate in a securities lending program operated by Mellon Bank, N.A., as lending agent (the "Lending Agent"). The Lending Agent will receive a percentage of the total earnings of the series derived from lending its portfolio securities. Should the borrower of the securities fail financially, the series may experience delays in recovering the loaned securities or exercising its rights in the collateral. Loans are made only to borrowers that are deemed by the Manager to be of good financial standing. In a loan transaction, the Government Securities Series will also bear the risk of any decline in value of securities acquired with cash collateral. The series will minimize this risk by limiting the investment of cash collateral to U.S. Treasury securities or repurchase agreements.

### Certain Investment Considerations and Risks

Foreign Securities. Since the Money Market Series' portfolio may contain securities issued by foreign branches of domestic banks and obligations issued or guaranteed by one or more foreign governments or any of their political sub-divisions, agencies or instrumentalities, the series may be subject to additional investment risks with respect to such securities that are different in some respects from those incurred by a fund which invests only in debt obligations of U.S. domestic issuers. Such risks include possible adverse political and economic developments, seizure or nationalization of foreign deposits, and adoption of governmental restrictions which might adversely affect or restrict the payment of principal and interest on these securities.

Bank Securities. To the extent the Money Market Series' investments are concentrated in the banking industry, the series will have correspondingly greater exposure to the risk factors which are characteristic of such investments. Sustained increases in interest rates can adversely affect the availability or liquidity and cost of capital funds for a bank's lending activities, and a deterioration in general economic conditions could increase the exposure to credit losses. In addition, the value of and the investment return on the Money Market Series' shares could be affected by economic or regulatory developments in or related to the banking industry, which industry also is subject to the effects of competition within the banking industry as well as with other types of financial institutions. The Money Market Series, however, will seek to minimize its exposure to such risks by investing only in debt securities which are determined to be of high quality.

Simultaneous Investments. Investment decisions for each series are made independently from those of other investment companies advised by the Manager. The Manager has adopted written trade allocation procedures for its equity and fixed income trading desks. Under the procedures, portfolio managers or the trading desks will ordinarily seek to aggregate (or "bunch") orders that are placed or received concurrently for more than one investment company or account. In some cases, this procedure may adversely affect the size of the position obtained for or disposed of by the series or the price paid or received by the series.

#### Investment Restrictions

Under normal circumstances, the Government Securities Series invests only in short-term securities issued or guaranteed as to principal and interest by the U.S. Government and repurchase agreements relating to such securities. The Fund has adopted a policy to provide shareholders of the Government Securities Series with at least 60 days' prior notice of any change in its policy to so invest the series' assets. The Fund's investment objective is a fundamental policy, which cannot be changed, as to a series, without approval by the holders of a majority (as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act")) of the outstanding voting shares of such series. In addition, the Fund has adopted investment restrictions numbered 1 through 10, with respect to each series, and investment restrictions numbered 12 and 13, with respect to the Money Market Series only, as fundamental policies. Investment restriction number 11 is not a fundamental policy and may be changed, as to a series, by a vote of a majority of the Fund's Board members at any time. Neither series may:

1. Purchase common stocks, preferred stocks, warrants, other equity securities, corporate bonds or debentures, state bonds, municipal bonds or industrial revenue bonds.
2. Borrow money, except from banks for temporary or emergency (not leveraging) purposes, in an amount up to 15% of the value of a series' total assets (including the amount borrowed) based on the lesser of cost or market, less liabilities (not including the amount borrowed) at the time the borrowing is made. While borrowings exceed 5% of the value of the series' total assets, the series will not make any additional investments.
3. Pledge, hypothecate, mortgage or otherwise encumber its assets except in an amount up to 15% of the value of its total assets but only to secure borrowings for temporary or emergency purposes.
4. Sell securities short or purchase securities on margin.

5. Write or purchase put or call options.
6. Underwrite the securities of other issuers.
7. Purchase or sell real estate, real estate investment trust securities, commodities, or oil and gas interests.
8. Make loans to others, except through the purchase of debt obligations and through repurchase agreements referred to in the Prospectus. However, the Government Securities Series may lend securities to brokers, dealers and other institutional investors, but only when the borrower deposits collateral consisting of cash or U.S. Treasury securities with the Government Securities Series and agrees to maintain such collateral so that it amounts at all times to at least 100% of the value of the securities loaned. Such loans will not be made if, as a result, the aggregate value of the securities loaned exceeds 20% of the value of the Government Securities Series' total assets.
9. Invest in companies for the purpose of exercising control.
10. Invest in securities of other investment companies, except as they may be acquired as part of a merger, consolidation or acquisition of assets.
11. Enter into repurchase agreements providing for settlement in more than seven days after notice or purchase securities which are illiquid if, in the aggregate, more than 10% of the value of the series' net assets would be so invested.

The following investment restrictions numbered 12 and 13, which are fundamental policies, apply only to the Money Market Series. The Money Market Series may not:

12. Invest more than 15% of its assets in the obligations of any one bank, or invest more than 5% of its assets in the commercial paper of any one issuer. Notwithstanding the foregoing, to the extent required by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Money Market Series will not invest more than 5% of its assets in the obligations of any one bank.

13. Invest less than 25% of its assets in obligations issued by banks or invest more than 25% of its assets in the securities of issuers in any other industry, provided that there shall be no limitation on the purchase of obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if at some future date available yields on bank securities are significantly lower than yields on other securities in which the Money Market Series may invest, the Money Market Series may invest less than 25% of its assets in bank obligations.

If a percentage restriction is adhered to at the time of investment, a later increase or decrease in percentage resulting from a change in values or assets will not constitute a violation of such restriction.

## MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND

The Fund's Board is responsible for the management and supervision of the Fund, and approves all significant agreements with those companies that furnish services to the Fund. These companies are as follows:

The Dreyfus Corporation .....	Investment Adviser
Dreyfus Service Corporation.....	Distributor
Dreyfus Transfer, Inc. ....	Transfer Agent
The Bank of New York.....	Custodian

Board members of the Fund, together with information as to their positions with the Fund, principal occupations and other board memberships and affiliations, are shown below.

### Board Members of the Fund<sup>1</sup>

<u>Name (Age)</u> <u>Position with Fund (Since)</u>	<u>Principal Occupation</u> <u>During Past 5 Years</u>	<u>Other Board Memberships and Affiliations</u>
Joseph S. DiMartino (60) Chairman of the Board (1995)	Corporate Director and Trustee	The Muscular Dystrophy Association, <i>Director</i> Levcor International, Inc. an apparel fabric processor, <i>Director</i> Century Business Services, Inc., a provider of outsourcing functions for small and medium size companies, <i>Director</i> The Newark Group, a provider of a national market of paper recovery facilities, paperboard mills and paperboard converting plants, <i>Director</i>
David P. Feldman (64) Board Member (1994)	Corporate Director and Trustee	BBH Mutual Funds Group (11 funds), <i>Director</i> The Jeffrey Company, a private investment company, <i>Director</i> QMED, a medical device company, <i>Director</i>
James F. Henry (73) Board Member (1991)	President, CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution, a non-profit organization principally engaged in the development of alternatives to business litigation (Retired 2003)	None
Rosalind Gersten Jacobs (78) Board Member (1991)	Merchandise and marketing consultant	None
Dr. Paul A. Marks (77) Board Member (1991)	President and Chief Executive Officer of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (Retired 1999)	Pfizer, Inc., pharmaceutical company, <i>Director - Emeritus</i> Atom Pharm, <i>Director</i> Lazard Freres & Co., <i>Senior Advisor</i> Merck, Consultant

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<sup>1</sup> None of the Board members are "interested persons" of the Fund, as defined in the 1940 Act.

<u>Name (Age)</u> <u>Position with Fund (Since)</u>	<u>Principal Occupation</u> <u>During Past 5 Years</u>	<u>Other Board Memberships and Affiliations</u>
Dr. Martin Peretz (64) Board Member (1991)	Editor-in-Chief of The New Republic Magazine Lecturer in Social Studies at Harvard University (1965 - 2001) Co-Chairman of TheStreet.com, a financial daily on the web	Academy for Liberal Education, an accrediting agency for colleges and universities certified by the U.S. Department of Education, <i>Director</i> Digital Learning Group, LLC, an online publisher of college textbooks, <i>Director</i> Harvard Center for Blood Research, <i>Trustee</i> Bard College, <i>Trustee</i> YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, <i>Trustee</i>
Bert W. Wasserman (71) Board Member (1993)	Financial Consultant	Lillian Vernon Corporation, <i>Director</i>

Board members are elected to serve for an indefinite term. The Fund has standing audit, nominating and compensation committees, each comprised of its Board members who are not “interested persons” of the Fund, as defined in the 1940 Act. The function of the audit committee is to (i) oversee the Fund’s accounting and financial reporting processes and the audits of the Fund’s financial statements and (ii) to assist in the Board’s oversight of the integrity of the Fund’s financial statements, the Fund’s compliance with legal and regulatory requirements and the independent auditor’s qualifications, independence and performance. The Fund’s nominating committee is responsible for selecting and nominating persons as members of the Board for election or appointment by the Board and for election by shareholders. In evaluating potential nominees, including any nominees recommended by shareholders, the committee takes into consideration various factors, including character and integrity, business and professional experience, and whether the committee believes the person has the ability to apply sound and independent business judgment and would act in the interest of the Fund and its shareholders. The function of the compensation committee is to establish the appropriate compensation for serving on the Board. The Fund also has a standing evaluation committee comprised of any one Board member. The function of the evaluation committee is to assist in valuing the series’ investments. The audit committee met four times during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003. The compensation, nominating and evaluation committees had no meetings during the last fiscal year.

The table below indicates the dollar range of each Board member’s ownership of series shares and shares of other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds for which he or she is a Board member, in each case as of December 31, 2003.

<u>Name of Board Member</u>	<u>Government Securities Series</u>	<u>Money Market Series</u>	<u>Aggregate Holding Of Funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds For which Responsible as a Board Member</u>
Joseph S. DiMartino	None	None	Over \$100,000
David P. Feldman	None	None	Over \$100,000

<u>Name of Board Member</u>	Government Securities <u>Series</u>	<u>Money Market Series</u>	Aggregate Holding Of Funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds For which Responsible as a
			<u>Board Member</u>
James F. Henry	None	None	Over \$100,000
Rosalind G. Jacobs	None	None	\$10,001 - \$50,000
Dr. Paul A. Marks	None	None	None
Dr. Martin Peretz	None	None	\$10,001-\$50,000
Bert W. Wasserman	None	None	Over \$100,000

As of December 31, 2003, none of the Board members or their immediate family members owned securities of the Manager, the Distributor or any person (other than a registered investment company) directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with the Manager or the Distributor.

The Fund typically pays its Board members its allocated portion of an annual retainer of \$40,000 and a fee of \$6,000 per meeting (with a minimum of \$500 per meeting and per telephone meeting) attended for the Fund and eight other funds (comprised of 24 portfolios) in the Dreyfus Family of Funds and reimburses them for their expenses. The Chairman of the Board receives an additional 25% of such compensation. Emeritus Board members are entitled to receive an annual retainer and a per meeting fee of one-half the amount paid to them as Board members. The aggregate amount of compensation paid to each Board member by the Fund, and by all funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds for which such person is a Board member (the number of portfolios of such funds is set forth in parenthesis next to each Board member's total compensation) for the year ended December 31, 2003, is as follows:

<u>Name of Board Member</u>	<u>Aggregate Compensation from the Fund</u>	<u>Total Compensation from the Fund and Fund Complex Paid to Board Members(**)</u>
Joseph S. DiMartino	\$9,281	\$800,306 (191)
David P. Feldman	\$7,505	\$116,000 (56)
John M. Fraser, Jr. <sup>†</sup>	\$2,358	\$32,500 (45)
James F. Henry	\$7,505	\$70,500 (24)
Rosalind Gersten Jacobs	\$7,505	\$116,500 (36)
Irving Kristol <sup>††</sup>	\$2,358	\$20,000 (24)

Name of Board Member	Aggregate Compensation from the Fund	Total Compensation from the Fund and Fund Complex Paid to Board Members(**)
Dr. Paul A. Marks	\$7,449	\$64,000 (24)
Dr. Martin Peretz	\$7,505	\$70,500 (24)
Bert W. Wasserman	\$7,505	\$64,500 (24)

\* Amount does not include reimbursed expenses for attending Board meetings, which amounted to \$597 for the Government Securities Series and \$1,360 for the Money Market Series for all Board members as a group.

\*\* Represents the number of separate portfolios comprising the investment companies in the Fund Complex, including the series, for which the Board member serves.

† Emeritus Board member since May 24, 2000.

†† Emeritus Board member since January 22, 2000.

### Officers of the Fund

STEPHEN E. CANTER, President since March 2000. Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer of the Manager, and an officer of 96 investment companies (comprised of 186 portfolios) managed by the Manager. Mr. Canter also is a Board member and, where applicable, an Executive Committee Member of the other investment management subsidiaries of Mellon Financial Corporation, each of which is an affiliate of the Manager. He is 58 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since May 1995.

STEPHEN R. BYERS, Executive Vice President since November 2003. Chief Investment Officer, Vice Chairman and a director of the Manager, and an officer of 96 investment companies (comprised of 186 portfolios) managed by the Manager. Mr. Byers also is an Officer, Director or an Executive Committee Member of certain other investment management subsidiaries of Mellon Financial Corporation, each of which is an affiliate of the Manager. He is 50 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since January 2000. Prior to joining the Manager, he served as an Executive Vice President - Capital Markets, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer at Gruntal & Co., L.L.C.

MARK N. JACOBS, Vice President since March 2000. Executive Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel of the Manager, and an officer of 97 investment companies (comprised of 202 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 57 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since June 1977.

JAMES WINDELS, Treasurer since November 2001. Director-Mutual Fund Accounting of the Manager, and an officer of 97 investment companies (comprised of 202 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 45 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since April 1985.

MICHAEL A. ROSENBERG, Secretary since March 2000. Associate General Counsel of the Manager, and an officer of 94 investment companies (comprised of 195 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 44 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since October 1991.

STEVEN F. NEWMAN, Assistant Secretary since March 2000. Associate General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of the Manager, and an officer of 97 investment companies (comprised of 202 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 54 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since July 1980.

ROBERT R. MULLERY, Associate Secretary since March 2000. Associate General Counsel of the Manager, and an officer of 26 investment companies (comprised of 58 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 52 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since May 1986.

ROBERT ROBOL, Assistant Treasurer. Senior Accounting Manager-Money Market Funds of the Manager, and an officer of 37 investment companies (comprised of 79 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 39 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since October 1988.

KENNETH J. SANDGREN, Assistant Treasurer since November 2001. Mutual Fund Tax Director of the Manager, and an officer of 97 investment companies (comprised of 202 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 49 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since June 1993.

WILLIAM GERMENIS, Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer. Vice President and Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer of the Distributor, and the Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer of 92 investment companies (comprised of 196 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 33 years old and has been an employee of the Distributor since October 1998. Prior to joining the Distributor, he was a Vice President of Compliance Data Center, Inc.

The address of each Board member and officer of the Fund is 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166.

The Fund's Board members and officers, as a group, owned less than 1% of the Fund's shares of outstanding on April 15, 2004.

The following are known by the Fund to own of record 5% or more of the outstanding voting securities of the Government Securities Series as of April 15, 2004: Fiduciary Trust Co. Intl., Customers Accounts, Attn: Robert Marte, P.O. Box 3199, New York, NY 10008-3199 – 18.50%; The Bear Stearns Companies Inc. (Custodial TR), Attn: Paul Kelly, 115 S. Jefferson Road, Whippany, NJ 07981-1048 – 34.69%; The Bear Sterns Companies Inc., Attn: Paul Kelly, 115 S. Jefferson Road, Whippany, NJ 07981-1048 – 15.70%; JP Morgan Chase Bank, Attn: Lilily Nickerson, VP, 2001 Bryan Tower, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, Dallas, TX 75201 – 10.04%.

The following are known by the Fund to own of record 5% or more of the outstanding voting securities of the Money Market Series as of April 15, 2004: Hare & Company, C/o Bank

of New York, Short-Term Investment Funds, 111 Sandercreek Pkwy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, E. Syracuse, NY 13057-1382– 82.09%; Banc of America Securities LLC, Money Market Funds Omnibus, 200N College St., FL3, Charlotte, NC 28255-0001 – 12.37%.

## MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Investment Adviser. The Manager is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mellon Financial Corporation (“Mellon”). Mellon is a global financial holding company incorporated under Pennsylvania law in 1971 and registered under the Federal Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. Mellon provides a comprehensive range of financial products and services in domestic and selected international markets.

The Manager provides management services pursuant to a Management Agreement (the “Agreement”) between the Manager and the Fund. As to each series, the Agreement is subject to annual approval by (i) the Fund’s Board or (ii) vote of a majority (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the outstanding voting securities of such series, provided that in either event the continuance also is approved by a majority of the Board members who are not “interested persons” (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund or the Manager, by vote cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval. As to each series, the Agreement is terminable without penalty on 60 days’ notice by the Fund’s Board or by vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of such series or, on 90 days’ notice, by the Manager. The Agreement will terminate automatically, as to the relevant series, in the event of its assignment (as defined in the 1940 Act).

In approving the current Management Agreement, the Board considered a number of factors, including the nature and quality of the services provided by the Manager, the investment philosophy and investment approach as applied to the Fund by the Manager; the investment management expertise of the Manager in respect of the series’ investment strategies; the personnel, resources and experience of the Manager; the series’ performance history and the management fees paid to the Manager relative to those of mutual funds with similar investment objectives, strategies and restrictions; the Manager’s costs of providing services under the Agreement; and ancillary benefits the Manager may receive from its relationship with the Fund.

The following persons are officers and/or directors of the Manager: Stephen E. Canter, Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer; Michael G. Millard, President and a director; Stephen R. Byers, Chief Investment Officer, Vice Chairman and a director; J. Charles Cardona, Vice Chairman and a director; J. David Officer, Vice Chairman and a director; Ronald P. O’Hanley III, Vice Chairman and a director; Diane P. Durnin, Executive Vice President; Mark N. Jacobs, Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary; Patrice M. Kozlowski, Senior Vice President-Corporate Communications; Mary Beth Leibig, Vice President--Human Resources; Theodore A. Schachar, Vice President--Tax; Angela E. Price, Vice President; Wendy H. Strutt, Vice President; Ray Van Cott, Vice President-Information Systems; William H. Maresca, Controller; James Bitetto, Assistant Secretary; Steven F. Newman, Assistant Secretary; and Steven G. Elliot, David F. Lamere, Martin G. McGuinn and Richard W. Sabo, directors.

The Manager manages the series' portfolio of investments in accordance with the stated policies of the series, subject to the approval of the Fund's Board. The Manager is responsible for investment decisions and provides the Fund with portfolio managers who are authorized by the Board to execute purchases and sales of securities. The Fund's portfolio managers are Bernard W. Kiernan, Jr., Patricia A. Larkin, James C. O'Connor and Thomas Riordan. The Manager also maintains a research department with a professional staff of portfolio managers and securities analysts who provide research services for the Fund as well as for other funds advised by the Manager.

The Manager's Code of Ethics subjects its employees' personal securities transactions to various restrictions to ensure that such trading does not disadvantage any fund advised by the Manager. In that regard, portfolio managers and other investment personnel of the Manager must preclear and report their personal securities transactions and holdings, which are reviewed for compliance with the Code of Ethics, and are also subject to the oversight of Mellon's Investment Ethics Committee. Portfolio managers and other investment personnel who comply with the preclearance and disclosure procedures of the Code of Ethics and the requirements of the Committee, may be permitted to purchase, sell or hold securities which also may be or are held in funds(s) they manage or for which they otherwise provide investment advice.

The Manager maintains office facilities on behalf of the Fund, and furnishes statistical and research data, clerical help, accounting, data processing, bookkeeping and internal auditing and certain other required services to the Fund. The Manager may pay the Distributor for shareholder services from the Manager's own assets, including past profits but not including the management fee paid by the Fund. The Distributor may use part or all of such payments to pay securities dealers, banks or other financial institutions in respect of these services. The Manager also may make such advertising and promotional expenditures, using its own resources, as it from time to time deems appropriate.

All expenses incurred in the operation of the Fund are borne by the Fund, except to the extent specifically assumed by the Manager. The expenses borne by the Fund include: taxes, interest, brokerage fees and commissions, if any, fees of Board members who are not officers, directors, employees, or holders of 5% or more of the outstanding voting securities of the Manager, Securities and Exchange Commission fees, state Blue Sky qualification fees, advisory fees, charges of registrars and custodians, transfer and dividend disbursing agents' fees, outside auditing and legal expenses, costs of independent pricing services, costs of maintaining the Fund's existence, all costs of insurance obtained other than under a blanket policy covering one or more other investment companies managed by the Manager, costs attributable to investor services (including, allocable telephone and personnel expenses), costs of shareholders' reports and meetings, costs of preparing and printing prospectuses for regulatory purposes and for distribution to existing shareholders and any extraordinary expenses. Expenses attributable to a particular series are charged against the assets of that series; other expenses of the Fund are allocated between the series on the basis determined by the Board members, including, but not limited to, proportionately in relation to the net assets of each series.

As compensation for the Manager's services, the Fund has agreed to pay the Manager a monthly management fee at the annual rate of 0.50% of the value of each series' average daily net assets. All fees and expenses are accrued daily and deducted before declaration of dividends to investors. The management fees paid by the Money Market Series to the Manager for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003 amounted to \$3,619,273, \$3,844,288 and \$3,260,734, respectively. The management fees paid by the Government Securities Series to the Manager for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003 amounted to \$546,993, \$427,906, and \$387,362, respectively. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, the amount was reduced by \$270 pursuant to an undertaking by the Manager, resulting in a net fee of \$387,362.

The Manager has agreed that if in any fiscal year the aggregate expenses of the Fund, exclusive of taxes, brokerage commissions, interest and (with the prior written consent of the necessary state securities commissions) extraordinary expenses, but including the management fee, exceed 1% of the value of the average net assets of either series for the year, the Fund may deduct from the management fees charged to the series or the Manager will bear such excess amount.

The aggregate of the fees payable to the Manager is not subject to reduction as the value of a series' net assets increases.

Distributor. The Distributor, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Manager located at 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166, serves as the Fund's distributor on a best efforts basis pursuant to an agreement with the Fund which is renewable annually.

Transfer and Dividend Disbursing Agent and Custodian. Dreyfus Transfer, Inc. (the "Transfer Agent"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Manager, 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166, is the Fund's transfer and dividend disbursing agent. Under a transfer agency agreement with the Fund, the Transfer Agent arranges for the maintenance of shareholder account records for the Fund, the handling of certain communications between shareholders and the Fund and the payment of dividends and distributions payable by the Fund. For these services, the Transfer Agent receives a monthly fee computed on the basis of the number of shareholder accounts it maintains for the Fund during the month, and is reimbursed for certain out-of-pocket expenses.

The Bank of New York (the "Custodian"), 100 Church Street, New York, New York 10286, is the Fund's custodian. Under a custody agreement with the Fund, the Custodian holds the series' securities and keeps all necessary accounts and records. The Custodian has no part in determining the investment policies of the series or which securities are to be purchased or sold by the series.

## HOW TO BUY SHARES

General. Shares of each series are sold without a sales charge. You may be charged a fee if you effect transactions in shares of either series through a securities dealer, bank or other financial institution. Third parties may receive payments from the Manager in connection with their offering of Fund shares to their customers, or for marketing, distribution or other services. The receipt of such payments could create an incentive for the third party to offer the Fund

instead of other mutual funds where such payments are not received. Please consult a representative of your plan or financial institution for further information. Share certificates are issued only upon your written request. No certificates are issued for fractional shares. The Fund reserves the right to reject any purchase order.

The minimum initial investment in each series is \$50,000, unless you are a client of a securities dealer, bank or other financial institution which maintains an omnibus account in the Fund and has made an aggregate minimum initial purchase for its customers of \$50,000. Subsequent investments in either series must be at least \$100. The initial investment must be accompanied by the Account Application.

Shares also may be purchased through Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder®, Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege and Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan described under “Shareholder Services.” These services enable you to make regularly scheduled investments and may provide you with a convenient way to invest for long-term financial goals. You should be aware, however, that periodic investment plans do not guarantee a profit and will not protect an investor against loss in a declining market.

Each series’ shares are sold on a continuous basis at the net asset value per share next determined after an order and Federal Funds (monies of member banks within the Federal Reserve system which are held on deposit at a Federal Reserve Bank) are received by the Transfer Agent or other entity authorized to receive orders on behalf of the Fund. If you do not remit Federal Funds, your payment must be converted into Federal Funds. This usually occurs within one day of receipt of a bank wire and within two business days of receipt of a check drawn on a member bank of the Federal Reserve System. Checks drawn on banks which are not members of the Federal Reserve System may take considerably longer to convert into Federal Funds. Prior to receipt of Federal Funds, your money will not be invested.

The net asset value per share of each series is determined twice each business day at 12:00 Noon, Eastern time, and as of the close of trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (usually 4:00 p.m., Eastern time), on each day the New York Stock Exchange or, with respect to the Money Market Series, the Transfer Agent is open for regular business. The Fund also may process purchase and sale orders and calculate its net asset value on days that the series’ primary trading markets are open and the Fund’s management determines to do so. Net asset value per share is computed by dividing the value of the net assets of each series (i.e., the value of its assets less liabilities) by the total number of shares of such series outstanding. See “Determination of Net Asset Value.” If your payments are received in or converted into Federal Funds by 12:00 Noon, Eastern time, by the Transfer Agent, you will receive the dividend declared on that day. If your payments are received in or converted into Federal Funds after 12:00 Noon, Eastern time, by the Transfer Agent, your shares will begin to accrue dividends on the following business day. Qualified institutions may telephone orders for purchase of either series’ shares. A telephone order placed with the Distributor or its designee in New York will become effective at the price determined at 12:00 Noon, Eastern time, and the shares purchased will receive the dividend on such series’ shares declared on that day if such order is placed by 12:00 Noon, Eastern time, and Federal Funds are received by the Transfer Agent by 4:00 p.m., Eastern time.

Using Federal Funds. The Transfer Agent or the Fund may attempt to notify you upon receipt of checks drawn on banks that are not members of the Federal Reserve System as to the

possible delay in conversion into Federal Funds and may attempt to arrange for a better means of transmitting the money. If you are a customer of a securities dealer, bank or other financial institution and your order to purchase Fund shares is paid for other than in Federal Funds, the securities dealer, bank or other financial institution, acting on your behalf, will complete the conversion into, or itself advance, Federal Funds generally on the business day following receipt of your order. The order is effective only when so converted and received by the Transfer Agent. If you have a sufficient Federal Funds or cash balance in your brokerage account with a securities dealer, bank or other financial institution, your order to purchase Fund shares will become effective on the day that the order, including Federal Funds, is received by the Transfer Agent.

Procedures for Multiple Accounts. Special procedures have been designed for banks and other institutions that wish to open multiple accounts. The institution may open a single master account by filing one application with the Transfer Agent and may open individual sub-accounts at the same time or at some later date. The Transfer Agent will provide each institution with a written confirmation for each transaction in a sub-account. Duplicate confirmations may be transmitted to the beneficial owner of the sub-account at no additional charge. Upon receipt of funds for investment by interbank wire, the Transfer Agent will promptly confirm the receipt of the investment by telephone or return wire to the transmitting bank, if the investor so requests.

The Transfer Agent also will provide each institution with a monthly statement setting forth, for each sub-account, the share balance, income earned for the month, income earned for the year to date and the total current value of the account.

Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege. You may purchase Fund shares of either series by telephone if you have checked the appropriate box and supplied the necessary information on the Account Application or have filed a Shareholder Services Form with the Transfer Agent. The proceeds will be transferred between the bank account designated in one of these documents and your Fund account, which will subject the purchase order to a processing delay. Only a bank account maintained in a domestic financial institution which is an Automated Clearing House ("ACH") member may be so designated.

Dreyfus TeleTransfer purchase orders may be made at any time if purchase orders are received by 4:00 p.m., Eastern time, on any day that the Transfer Agent and the New York Stock Exchange are open for regular business, Fund shares will be purchased at the share price determined on the next bank business day following such purchase order. If purchase orders are made after 4:00 p.m., Eastern time, on any day the Transfer Agent and the New York Stock Exchange are open for regular business, or made on Saturday, Sunday or any Fund holiday (e.g., when the New York Stock Exchange is not open for business), Fund shares will be purchased at the share price determined on the second bank business day following such purchase order. To qualify to use Dreyfus TeleTransfer, the initial payment for purchase of Fund shares must be drawn on, and redemption proceeds paid to, the same bank and account as are designated on the Account Application or Shareholder Services Form on file. If the proceeds of a particular redemption are to be sent to an account at any other bank, the request must be in writing and signature-guaranteed. See "How to Redeem Shares--Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege."

Transactions Through Securities Dealers. Fund shares may be purchased and redeemed through securities dealers who may charge a transaction fee for such services. Some dealers will place the Fund's shares in an account with their firm. Dealers also may require that the customer not take physical delivery of share certificates; the customer not request redemption checks to be

issued in the customer's name; fractional shares not be purchased; monthly income distributions be taken in cash; or other conditions.

There is no sales or service charge by the Fund or the Distributor although investment dealers, banks and other financial institutions may make reasonable charges to investors for their services. The services provided and the applicable fees are established by each dealer or other institution acting independently of the Fund. The Fund has been given to understand that these fees may be charged for customer services including, but not limited to, same-day investment of client funds; same-day access to client funds; advice to customers about the status of their accounts, yield currently being paid or income earned to date; provision of periodic account statements showing security and money market positions; other services available from the dealer, bank or other institution; and assistance with inquiries related to their investment. Any such fees will be deducted monthly from the investor's account, which on smaller accounts could constitute a substantial portion of distributions. Small, inactive, long-term accounts involving monthly service charges may not be in the best interest of investors. Investors should be aware that they may purchase shares of the Fund directly from the Fund without imposition of any maintenance or service charges, other than those already described herein.

Reopening an Account. You may reopen an account with a minimum investment of \$100 without filing a new Account Application during the calendar year the account is closed or during the following calendar year, provided the information on the old Account Application is still applicable.

## SHAREHOLDER SERVICES PLAN

The Fund has adopted a Shareholder Services Plan (the "Plan") pursuant to which the Fund reimburses the Distributor an amount not to exceed the annual rate of 0.25% of the value of each series' average daily net assets for certain allocated expenses of providing personal services and/or maintaining shareholder accounts. The services provided may include personal services relating to shareholder accounts, such as answering shareholder inquiries regarding the Fund and providing reports and other information, and services related to the maintenance of shareholder accounts.

A quarterly report of the amounts expended under the Plan, and the purposes for which such expenditures were incurred, must be made to the Board for its review. In addition, the Plan provides that material amendments of the Plan must be approved by the Board, and by the Board members who are not "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund and have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Plan by vote cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of considering such amendments. The Plan is subject to annual approval by such vote of the Board members cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on the Plan. The Plan is terminable at any time by vote of a majority of the Board members who are not "interested persons" and have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Plan.

The fees paid by the Money Market Series and the Government Securities Series pursuant to the Plan for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003 amounted to \$30,460 and \$26,435, respectively.

## HOW TO REDEEM SHARES

General. The Fund ordinarily will make payment for all shares redeemed within seven days after receipt by the Transfer Agent of a redemption request in proper form, except as provided by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission. However, if you have purchased Fund shares by check, by Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege or through Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder® and subsequently submit a written redemption request to the Transfer Agent, the Fund may delay redemption of such shares, and the redemption proceeds may not be transmitted to you, for up to eight business days after the purchase of such shares. In addition, the Fund will not honor redemption checks under the Checkwriting Privilege, and will reject requests to redeem shares by wire or telephone or pursuant to the Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege, for a period of up to eight business days after receipt by the Transfer Agent of the purchase check or the Dreyfus TeleTransfer purchase or the Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder order against which such redemption is requested. These procedures will not apply if your shares were purchased by wire payment, or if you otherwise have a sufficient collected balance in your account to cover the redemption request. Prior to the time any redemption is effective, dividends on such shares will accrue and be payable, and you will be entitled to exercise all other rights of beneficial ownership. Fund shares may not be redeemed until the Transfer Agent has received your Account Application.

Checkwriting Privilege. The Fund provides redemption checks (“Checks”) automatically upon opening an account, unless you specifically refuse the Checkwriting Privilege by checking the applicable “No” box on the Account Application. Checks will be sent only to the registered owner(s) of the account and only to the address of record. The Checkwriting Privilege may be established for an existing account by a separate signed Shareholder Services Form. The Account Application or Shareholder Services Form must be manually signed by the registered owner(s). Checks are drawn on your Fund account and may be made payable to the order of any person in an amount of \$500 or more. When a Check is presented to the Transfer Agent for payment, the Transfer Agent, as your agent, will cause the Fund to redeem a sufficient number of shares in your account to cover the amount of the Check. Dividends are earned until the Check clears. After clearance, a copy of the Check will be returned to you. You generally will be subject to the same rules and regulations that apply to checking accounts, although the election of this Privilege creates only a shareholder-transfer agent relationship with the Transfer Agent.

Checks are free, but the Transfer Agent will impose a fee for stopping payment of a Check upon your request or if the Transfer Agent cannot honor a Check due to insufficient funds or other valid reason. If the amount of the Check is greater than the value of the shares in your account, the Check will be returned marked insufficient funds. Checks should not be used to close an account.

You should date your Checks with the current date when you write them. Please do not postdate your Checks. If you do, the Transfer Agent will honor, upon presentment, even if presented before the date of the check, all postdated Checks which are dated within six months of presentment of payment, if they are otherwise in good order. If you hold shares in a Dreyfus sponsored IRA account, you may be permitted to make withdrawals from your IRA account using checks furnished to you by The Dreyfus Trust Company.

Wire Redemption Privilege. By using this Privilege, you authorize the Transfer Agent to act on telephone or letter redemption instructions from any person representing himself or herself to be you and reasonably believed by the Transfer Agent to be genuine. Ordinarily, the Fund will initiate payment for shares redeemed pursuant to this Privilege on the same business day if the redemption request is received by the Transfer Agent in proper form prior to 12:00 Noon, New York time, on such day; otherwise, the Fund will initiate payment on the next business day. Redemption proceeds (\$1,000 minimum) will be transferred by Federal Reserve wire only to the commercial bank account specified by you on the Account Application or Shareholder Services Form, or to a correspondent bank if your bank is not a member of the Federal Reserve System. Fees ordinarily are imposed by such bank and borne by the investor. Immediate notification by the correspondent bank to your bank is necessary to avoid a delay in crediting the funds to your bank account.

To change the commercial bank or account designated to receive redemption proceeds, a written request must be sent to the Transfer Agent. This request must be signed by each shareholder, with each signature guaranteed as described below under “Share Certificates; Signatures.”

Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege. You may request by telephone that redemption proceeds be transferred between your Fund account and your bank account. Only a bank account maintained in a domestic financial institution which is an ACH member may be designated. You should be aware that if you have selected the Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege, any request for a Dreyfus TeleTransfer transaction will be effected through the ACH system unless more prompt transmittal specifically is requested. Redemption proceeds will be on deposit in your account at an ACH member bank ordinarily two business days after receipt of the redemption request. See “How to Buy Shares--Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege.”

Share Certificates; Signatures. Any certificate representing Fund shares to be redeemed must be submitted with the redemption request. Written redemption requests must be signed by each shareholder, including each holder of a joint account, and each signature must be guaranteed. Signatures on endorsed certificates submitted for redemption also must be guaranteed. The Transfer Agent has adopted standards and procedures pursuant to which signature-guarantees in proper form generally will be accepted from domestic banks, brokers, dealers, credit unions, national securities exchanges, registered securities associations, clearing agencies and savings associations, as well as from participants in the New York Stock Exchange Medallion Program, the Securities Transfer Agents Medallion Program (“STAMP”) and the Stock Exchanges Medallion Program. Guarantees must be signed by an authorized signatory of the guarantor and “Signature-Guaranteed” must appear with the signature. The Transfer Agent may request additional documentation from corporations, executors, administrators, trustees or guardians, and may accept other suitable verification arrangements from foreign investors, such as consular verification. For more information with respect to signature-guarantees, please call one of the telephone numbers listed on the cover.

Redemption Commitment. The Fund has committed itself to pay in cash all redemption requests by any shareholder of record, limited in amount during any 90-day period to the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of the value of the relevant series’ net assets at the beginning of such period. Such commitment is irrevocable without the prior approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission. In the case of requests for redemption in excess of such amount, the Fund’s Board reserves the right to make payments in whole or part in securities or other assets of the relevant

series in case of an emergency or any time a cash distribution would impair the liquidity of such series to the detriment of the existing shareholders. In such event, the securities would be valued in the same manner as the series' portfolio is valued. If the recipient sold such securities, brokerage charges might be incurred.

Suspension of Redemptions. The right of redemption may be suspended or the date of payment postponed (a) during any period when the New York Stock Exchange is closed (other than customary weekend and holiday closings), (b) when trading in the markets the Fund ordinarily utilizes is restricted, or when an emergency exists as determined by the Securities and Exchange Commission so that disposal of the Fund's investments or determination of its net asset value is not reasonably practicable, or (c) for such other periods as the Securities and Exchange Commission by order may permit to protect the Fund's shareholders.

## SHAREHOLDER SERVICES

Fund Exchanges. You may purchase, in exchange for shares of a series of the Fund, shares of the Fund's other series, shares of certain other funds managed or administered by the Manager, or shares of funds advised by Founders Asset Management LLC ("Founders"), an indirect subsidiary of the Manager, to the extent such shares are offered for sale in your state of residence. Shares of other funds purchased by exchange will be purchased on the basis of relative net asset value per share as follows:

- A. Exchanges for shares of funds offered without a sales load will be made without a sales load.
- B. Shares of funds purchased without a sales load may be exchanged for shares of other funds sold with a sales load, and the applicable sales load will be deducted.
- C. Shares of funds purchased with a sales load may be exchanged without a sales load for shares of other funds sold without a sales load.
- D. Shares of funds purchased with a sales load, shares of funds acquired by a previous exchange from shares purchased with a sales load, and additional shares acquired through reinvestment of dividends or distributions of any such funds (collectively referred to herein as "Purchased Shares") may be exchanged for shares of other funds sold with a sales load (referred to herein as "Offered Shares"), but if the sales load applicable to the Offered Shares exceeds the maximum sales load that could have been imposed in connection with the Purchased Shares (at the time the Purchased Shares were acquired), without giving effect to any reduced loads, the difference may be deducted.

To accomplish an exchange under item D above, you must notify the Transfer Agent of your prior ownership of fund shares and your account number.

To request an exchange, you must give exchange instructions to the Transfer Agent in writing or by telephone. The ability to issue exchange instructions by telephone is given to all Fund shareholders automatically, unless you check the applicable "No" box on the Account Application, indicating that you specifically refuse this privilege. By using the Telephone

Exchange Privilege, you authorize the Transfer Agent to act on telephonic instructions (including over the Dreyfus Express® voice response telephone system) from any person representing himself or herself to be you, and reasonably believed by the Transfer Agent to be genuine. Exchanges may be subject to limitations as to the amount involved or the number of exchanges permitted. Shares issued in certificate form are not eligible for telephone exchanges. No fees currently are charged shareholders directly in connection with exchanges, although the Fund reserves the right, upon not less than 60 days' written notice, to charge shareholders a nominal administrative fee in accordance with rules promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege. Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege permits you to purchase (or a semi-monthly, monthly, quarterly or annual basis), in exchange for shares of the Fund, shares of certain other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds or shares of certain funds advised by Founders, of which you are a shareholder. This Privilege is available only for existing accounts. Shares will be exchanged on the basis of relative net asset value set forth above under "Fund Exchanges." Enrollment in or modification or cancellation of this Privilege is effective three business days following notification by you. You will be notified if your account falls below the amount designated to be exchanged under this Privilege. In this case, your account will fall to zero unless additional investments are made in excess of the designated amount prior to the next Auto-Exchange transaction. Shares held under IRA and other retirement plans are eligible for this Privilege. Exchanges of IRA shares may be made between IRA accounts and from regular accounts to IRA accounts, but not from IRA accounts to regular accounts. With respect to all other retirement accounts, exchanges may be made only among those accounts.

Shareholder Services Forms and prospectuses of the other funds may be obtained by calling 1-800-645-6561. Shares may be exchanged only between accounts having certain identical identifying designations. The Fund reserves the right to reject any exchange request in whole or in part. The Fund Exchanges service or Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege may be modified or terminated at any time upon notice to shareholders.

Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder®. Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder permits you to purchase Fund shares (minimum of \$100 and maximum of \$150,000 per transaction) at regular intervals selected by you. Fund shares are purchased by transferring funds from the bank account designated by you.

Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege. Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege enables you to purchase Fund shares (minimum of \$100 and maximum of \$50,000 per transaction) by having Federal salary, Social Security, or certain veterans', military or other payments from the U.S. Government automatically deposited into your fund account. You may deposit as much of such payments as you elect.

Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan. Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan permits you to purchase Fund shares (minimum of \$100 per transaction) automatically on a regular basis. Depending upon your employer's direct deposit program, you may have part or all of your paycheck transferred to your existing Dreyfus account electronically through the Automated Clearing House system at each pay period. To establish a Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan account, you must file an authorization form with your employer's payroll department. It is the sole responsibility of your employer to arrange for transactions under the Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan.

Dreyfus Dividend Options. Dreyfus Dividend Sweep allows you to invest automatically your dividends or dividends and capital gain distributions, if any, from the Fund in shares of another fund in the Dreyfus Family of Funds or shares of a fund advised by Founders, of which you are a shareholder. Shares of other funds purchased pursuant to this privilege will be purchased on the basis of relative net asset value per share as follows:

- A. Dividends and distributions paid by a fund may be invested without a sales load in shares of other funds offered without a sales load.
- B. Dividends and distributions paid by a fund that does not charge a sales load may be invested in shares of other funds sold with a sales load, and the applicable sales load will be deducted.
- C. Dividends and distributions paid by a fund that charges a sales load may be invested in shares of other funds sold with a sales load (referred to herein as “Offered Shares”), but if the sales load applicable to the Offered Shares exceeds the maximum sales load charged by the fund from which dividends or distributions are being swept (without giving effect to any reduced loads), the difference may be deducted.
- D. Dividends and distributions paid by a fund may be invested in shares of other funds that impose a contingent deferred sales charge (“CDSC”) and the applicable CDSC, if any, will be imposed upon redemption of such shares.

Dreyfus Dividend ACH permits you to transfer electronically dividends or dividends and capital gain distributions, if any, from the Fund to a designated bank account. Only an account maintained at a domestic financial institution which is an Automated Clearing House member may be so designated. Banks may charge a fee for this service.

Automatic Withdrawal Plan. The Automatic Withdrawal Plan permits you to request withdrawal of a specified dollar amount (minimum of \$50) on either a monthly or quarterly basis if you have a \$5,000 minimum account. Withdrawal payments are the proceeds from sales of Fund shares, not the yield on the shares. If withdrawal payments exceed reinvested dividends and distributions, your shares will be reduced and eventually may be depleted. Automatic Withdrawal may be terminated at any time by you, the Fund or the Transfer Agent. Shares for which stock certificates have been issued may not be redeemed through the Automatic Withdrawal Plan.

Quarterly Distribution Plans. The Quarterly Distribution Plan permits you to receive quarterly payments from the Fund consisting of proceeds from the redemption of shares purchased for your account through the automatic reinvestment of dividends declared on your account during the preceding calendar quarter. You may open a Quarterly Distribution Plan by submitting a request to the Transfer Agent. The Quarterly Distribution Plan may be ended at any time by you, the Fund or the Transfer Agent. Shares for which certificates have been issued must be presented before redemption under the Quarterly Distribution Plan.

## PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS

Portfolio securities ordinarily are purchased from the issuer or from an underwriter or a market maker for the securities. Usually no brokerage commissions are paid by the Fund for such purchases. Purchases from underwriters of portfolio securities may include a concession paid by the issuer to the underwriter and the purchase price paid to market makers for the securities may include the spread between the bid and asked price. No brokerage commissions have been paid by the Fund to date.

Transactions are allocated to various dealers by the Fund's portfolio managers in their best judgment. The primary consideration is prompt and effective execution of orders at the most favorable price. Subject to that primary consideration, dealers may be selected for research, statistical or other services to enable the Manager to supplement its own research and analysis with the views and information of other securities firms.

Research services furnished by brokers through which the Fund effects securities transactions may be used by the Manager in advising other funds it advises and, conversely, research services furnished to the Manager by brokers in connection with other funds the Manager advises may be used by the Manager in advising the Fund. Although it is not possible to place a dollar value on these services, it is the opinion of the Manager that the receipt and study of such services should not reduce the overall expenses of its research department.

The Fund may execute transactions with one or more of its "regular brokers or dealers", as defined in Rule 10b-1 under the 1940 Act. Rule 10b-1 provides that a "regular broker or dealer" is one of the ten brokers or dealers that, during the Fund's most recent fiscal year (i) received the greatest dollar amount of brokerage commissions from participating, either directly or indirectly, in the Fund's portfolio transactions, (ii) engaged as principal in the largest dollar amount of the Fund's portfolio transactions or (iii) sold the largest dollar amount of the Fund's securities. The following is a list of each series that acquired securities of its regular brokers or dealers for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, the issuer of the securities and the aggregate value per issuer, as of December 31, 2003, of such securities: (i) Money Market Series--State Street Bank & Trust Company - \$948,000; UBS Warburg LLC. - \$17,000,000; Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. - \$26,982,000; and Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. - \$17,000,000; and Government Securities Series--Bear Sterns & Co. - \$4,000,000; and UBS Warburg LLC - \$3,000,000.

## DETERMINATION OF NET ASSET VALUE

Amortized Cost Pricing. The valuation of the series' portfolio securities is based upon their amortized cost which does not take into account unrealized gains or losses. This involves valuing an instrument at its cost and thereafter assuming a constant amortization to maturity of any discount or premium, regardless of the impact of fluctuating interest rates on the market value of the instrument. While this method provides certainty in valuation, it may result in periods during which value, as determined by amortized cost, is higher or lower than the price the Fund would receive if it sold the instrument.

The Fund's Board has established, as a particular responsibility within the overall duty of care owed to the series' investors, procedures reasonably designed to stabilize each series' price per share as computed for the purpose of purchases and redemptions at \$1.00. Such procedures include review of each series' portfolio holdings by the Board, at such intervals as it may deem appropriate, to determine whether the series' net asset value calculated by using available market quotations or market equivalents deviates from \$1.00 per share based on amortized cost. In such review, investments for which market quotations are readily available will be valued at the most recent bid price or yield equivalent for such securities or for securities of comparable maturity, quality and type, as obtained from one or more of the major market makers for the securities to be valued. Other investments and assets will be valued at fair value as determined in good faith by the Board.

The extent of any deviation between the Fund's net asset value based upon available market quotations or market equivalents and \$1.00 per share based on amortized cost will be examined by the Fund's Board. If such deviation exceeds 1/2 of 1%, the Board will consider promptly what action, if any, will be initiated. In the event the Board determines that a deviation exists which may result in material dilution or other unfair results to investors or existing shareholders, it has agreed to take such corrective action as it regards as necessary and appropriate, including: selling portfolio instruments prior to maturity to realize capital gains or losses or to shorten average portfolio maturity; withholding dividends or paying distributions from capital or capital gains; redeeming shares in kind; or establishing a net asset value per share by using available market quotations.

New York Stock Exchange and Transfer Agent Closings. The holidays (as observed) on which the New York Stock Exchange and the Transfer Agent are closed currently are: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. In addition, the New York Stock Exchange is closed on Good Friday.

## DIVIDENDS, DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAXES

Management believes that each series has qualified as a "regulated investment company" under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003. Each series intends to continue to so qualify if such qualification is in the best interests of its shareholders. Such qualification relieves the series of any liability for Federal income tax to the extent its earnings are distributed to shareholders in accordance with applicable provisions of the Code. As a regulated investment company, each series will pay no Federal income tax on net investment income and net realized capital gains to the extent that such income and gains are distributed to shareholders in accordance with applicable provisions of the Code. To qualify as a regulated investment company, the series must pay out to its shareholders at least 90% of its net income (consisting of net investment income from tax exempt obligations and taxable obligations, if any, and net short-term capital against), and must meet certain asset diversification and other requirements. If the series does not qualify as a regulated investment company, it will be treated for tax purposes as an ordinary corporation subject to Federal income tax. The term "regulated investment company" does not imply the supervision of management or investment practices or policies by any government agency.

The Fund ordinarily declares dividends from each series' net investment income on each day the New York Stock Exchange or, with respect to the Money Market Series, the Transfer Agent is open for business. Each series' earnings for Saturdays, Sundays and holidays are declared as dividends on the preceding business day. Dividends usually are paid on the last business day of each month and automatically are reinvested in additional shares of the series from which they were paid at net asset value or, at your option, paid in cash. If you redeem all shares in your account at any time during the month, all dividends to which you are entitled will be paid to you along with the proceeds of the redemption. If you are an omnibus accountholder and indicate in a partial redemption request that a portion of any accrued dividends to which such account is entitled belongs to an underlying accountholder who has redeemed all shares in his or her account, such portion of the accrued dividends will be paid to you along with the proceeds of the redemption.

If you elect to receive dividends and distributions in cash, and your dividend or distribution check is returned to the Fund as undeliverable or remains uncashed for six months, the Fund reserves the right to reinvest such dividends or distributions and all future dividends and distributions payable to you in additional Fund shares at net asset value. No interest will accrue on amounts represented by uncashed distribution or redemption checks.

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUND AND SERIES

Each series share has one vote and, when issued and paid for in accordance with the terms of the offering, is fully paid and non-assessable. Shares of each series are of one class and have equal rights. Shares have no preemptive, subscription, or conversion rights and are freely transferable.

Unless otherwise required by the 1940 Act, ordinarily it will not be necessary for the Fund to hold annual meetings of shareholders. As a result, shareholders may not consider each year the election of Board members or the appointment of auditors. However, the holders of at least 10% of the shares outstanding and entitled to vote may require the Fund to hold a special meeting of shareholders for purposes of removing a Board member from office. Shareholders may remove a Board member by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Fund's outstanding voting shares. In addition, the Board will call a meeting of shareholders for the purpose of electing Board members if, at any time, less than a majority of the Board members then holding office have been elected by shareholders.

Under Massachusetts law, shareholders, under certain circumstances, could be held personally liable for the obligations of the Fund. However, the Fund's Agreement and Declaration of Trust (the "Trust Agreement") disclaims shareholder liability for acts or obligations of the Fund and requires that notice of such disclaimer be given in each agreement, obligation or instrument entered into or executed by the Fund or a Board member. The Trust Agreement provides for indemnification from the Fund's property for all losses and expenses of any shareholder held personally liable for the obligations of the Fund. Thus, the risk of a shareholder incurring financial loss on account of shareholder liability is limited to circumstances in which the Fund itself would be unable to meet its obligations, a possibility which management believes is remote. Upon payment of any liability incurred by the Fund, the shareholder paying such liability will be entitled to reimbursement from the general assets of the Fund. The Fund

intends to conduct its operations in such a way so as to avoid, as far as possible, ultimate liability of the shareholders for liabilities of the Fund.

The Fund is a “series fund,” which is a mutual fund divided into separate portfolios, each of which is treated as a separate entity for certain matters under the 1940 Act and for other purposes. A shareholder of one portfolio is not deemed to be a shareholder of any other portfolio. For certain matters shareholders vote together as a group; as to others they vote separately by series.

To date, the Board has authorized the creation of two series of shares. All consideration received by the Fund for shares of one of the series and all assets in which such consideration is invested will belong to that series (subject only to the rights of creditors of the Fund) and will be subject to the liabilities related thereto. The income attributable to, and the expenses of, one series are treated separately from those of the other series. The Fund has the ability to create, from time to time, new series without shareholder approval.

Rule 18f-2 under the 1940 Act provides that any matter required to be submitted under the provisions of the 1940 Act or applicable state law or otherwise, to the holders of the outstanding voting securities of an investment company, such as the Fund, will not be deemed to have been effectively acted upon unless approved by the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of each series affected by such matter. Rule 18f-2 further provides that a series shall be deemed to be affected by a matter unless it is clear that the interests of each series in the matter are identical or that the matter does not affect any interest of such series. However, the Rule exempts the selection of independent accountants and the election of Board members from the separate voting requirements of the Rule.

To offset the relatively higher costs of servicing smaller accounts, the Fund will charge regular accounts with balances below \$2,000 an annual fee of \$12. The valuation of accounts and the deductions are expected to take place during the last four months of each year. The fee will be waived for any investor whose aggregate Dreyfus mutual fund investments total at least \$25,000 and will apply to IRA accounts or to accounts participating in automatic investment programs or opened through a securities dealer, bank or other financial institution, or to other fiduciary accounts.

The Fund sends annual and semi-annual financial statements to all its shareholders.

#### COUNSEL AND INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP, 180 Maiden Lane, New York, New York 10038-4982, as counsel for the Fund, has rendered its opinion as to certain legal matters regarding the due authorization and valid issuance of the shares being sold pursuant to the Fund’s Prospectus.

Ernst & Young LLP, 5 Times Square, New York, New York 10036, independent auditors, have been selected as independent auditors of the Fund.

## APPENDIX

Description of the two highest commercial paper, bond and other short- and long-term rating categories assigned by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services ("S&P"), Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's"), Fitch Ratings ("Fitch"), and Thomson BankWatch, Inc. ("BankWatch").

### Commercial Paper and Short-Term Ratings

The designation A-1 by S&P indicates that the degree of safety regarding timely payment is either overwhelming or very strong. Those issues determined to possess overwhelming safety characteristics are denoted with a plus sign (+) designation. Capacity for timely payment on issues with an A-2 designation is strong. However, the relative degree of safety is not as high as for issues designated A-1.

The rating Prime-1 (P-1) is the highest commercial paper rating assigned by Moody's. Issuers of P-1 paper must have a superior capacity for repayment of short-term promissory obligations, and ordinarily will be evidenced by leading market positions in well established industries, high rates of return on funds employed, conservative capitalization structures with moderate reliance on debt and ample asset protection, broad margins in earnings coverage of fixed financial charges and high internal cash generation, and well established access to a range of financial markets and assured sources of alternate liquidity. Issues rated Prime-2 (P-2) have a strong capacity for repayment of short-term promissory obligations. This ordinarily will be evidenced by many of the characteristics cited above but to a lesser degree. Earnings trends and coverage ratios, while sound, will be more subject to variation. Capitalization characteristics, while still appropriate, may be more affected by external conditions. Ample alternate liquidity is maintained.

The rating Fitch-1 (Highest Credit Quality) is the highest commercial paper rating assigned by Fitch and indicates the strongest capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. The rating Fitch-2 (Good Credit Quality) is the second highest commercial paper rating assigned by Fitch which reflects a satisfactory capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, but the margin of safety is not as great as in the case of the higher ratings.

The rating TBW-1 is the highest short-term obligation rating assigned by BankWatch. Obligations rated TBW-1 are regarded as having the strongest capacity for timely repayment. Obligations rated TBW-2 are supported by a strong capacity for timely repayment, although the degree of safety is not as high as for issues rated TBW-1.

### Bond and Long-Term Ratings

Bonds rated AAA are considered by S&P to be the highest grade obligations and possess an extremely strong capacity to pay principal and interest. Bonds rated AA by S&P are judged by S&P to have a very strong capacity to pay principal and interest, and in the majority of instances, differ only in small degree from issues rated AAA.

Bonds rated Aaa are judged by Moody's to be of the best quality. Bonds rated Aa by Moody's are judged by Moody's to be of high quality by all standards and, together with the Aaa group, they comprise what are generally known as high-grade bonds. Bonds rated Aa are rated

lower than Aaa bonds because margins of protection may not be as large or fluctuations of protective elements may be of greater amplitude or there may be other elements present which make the long-term risks appear somewhat larger. Moody's applies numerical modifiers 1, 2 and 3 in the Aa rating category. The modifier 1 indicates a ranking for the security in the higher end of this rating category, the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking, and the modifier 3 indicates a ranking in the lower end of the rating category.

Bonds rated AAA by Fitch are judged by Fitch to be of the highest credit quality. The AAA rating by Fitch denotes the lowest expectation of credit risk. The AAA rating is assigned by Fitch only in case of exceptionally strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments; the capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events. Bonds rated AA by Fitch are judged by Fitch to be of very high credit quality. The AA rating by Fitch denotes a very low expectation of credit risk. The AA rating by Fitch indicates a very strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments; the capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.

Fitch also assigns a rating to certain international and U.S. banks. A Fitch bank rating represents Fitch's current assessment of the strength of the bank and whether such bank would receive support should it experience difficulties. In its assessment of a bank, Fitch uses a dual rating system comprised of Legal Ratings and Individual Ratings. In addition, Fitch assigns banks Long- and Short-Term Ratings as used in the corporate ratings discussed above. Legal Ratings, which range in gradation from 1 through 5, address the question of whether the bank would receive support provided by central banks or shareholders if it experienced difficulties, and such ratings are considered by Fitch to be a prime factor in its assessment of credit risk. Individual Ratings, which range in gradations from A through E, represent Fitch's assessment of a bank's economic merits and address the question of how the bank would be viewed if it were entirely independent and could not rely on support from state authorities or its owners.

In addition to its ratings of short-term obligations, BankWatch assigns a rating to each issuer it rates, in gradations of A through E. BankWatch examines all segments of the organization, including, where applicable, the holding company, member banks or associations, and other subsidiaries. In those instances where financial disclosure is incomplete or untimely, a qualified rating (QR) is assigned to the institution. BankWatch also assigns, in the case of foreign banks, a country rating which represents an assessment of the overall political and economic stability of the country in which the bank is domiciled.